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Title: Need to provide reservation to SCs/STs in Private Sector.

**SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA):** The NCMP of UPA committed to provide full equality of opportunity for SCs/STs. To fulfill this goal, Government is moving ahead to reserve jobs in private sector. As a part of this process, Government constituted a five-member Coordination Committee to suggest mechanism for affirmative action required to be implemented by private companies. I suggest, to ensure that required quota is filled in by private sector, it should be asked to set aside some portion − 10% or 15% - of their annual wage bill towards SC/STs, not some number of jobs. Further, companies providing reservation should be given incentives in the form of Income Tax, Sales Tax, Excise Duty, etc. Also, preference may be given in all Government contracts and purchases to companies which fulfill the required SC/ST quota. Finally, where Government licenses are mandatory, license issuing agencies should be instructed to include a mandatory clause of reservation as a bsics requirement of their licenses.

By doing this, the socio-economic conditions in which SC/STs are surviving would definitely improve and certainly help to a great extent in bringing improvement in their social and economic status.

* Treated as laid on the Table.